
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

November 2014

Presidents Corner

When I worked at the newspaper I was intensely aware of the date and the day of the week. Also my perception of time was smeared because we had to deal with issues today that were created yesterday and at the same time we were producing tomorrow's paper.

Now I work at a social service agency. I am now more conscious of the day of the week than the date. I have weekly meetings that keep coming up again and again that I have to prep for. It is in this context that I sat up and took notice that it is December. That and Ed Essick K6ELE is wondering when I will turn in this column.

We concentrate a lot into the end of the year. Just thinking about our club: Remember that there is no meeting on Friday 5 December. Instead of the regular monthly meeting we will have the club Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 17 December. You can find more information on our website at <http://w6sg.net/site/?p=1540> The cost is \$25.00 per person. You can pay at the door or on-line on the website. If you plan to attend but will pay at the door, please let us know you intend to come by sending an email to rsvp@w6sg.net so we can make sure we have enough food etc. We will be serving Turkey, Pot Roast a variety of side dishes and of course Ham. There will be door prizes and a brief business meeting.

You soon will receive our request to renew your membership. Most of you will receive an email which contains a link to the website where you can pay on line with either a major credit

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From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

ARRL SSB Sweepstakes

I just finished working the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes recently. I made a lot of my contacts on 10 meters including a number of DX stations. This is the first time I have actually spent some time in the contest, about 6.5 hours over the weekend. It's a demanding contest for me as you have to copy the other stations serial number, call sign, precedence (class of operation), date you were licensed, and ARRL section.

A contest helps to sharpen my operating skills and lets me learn more about my logging software. I just updated my N1MM logging software to N1MM+ before the contest. I had some problems converting my log to a Cabrillo file that ARRL requires for submission. I asked a fellow ham, Mike, AI6II, to look at my contest file. He gave me several suggestions and I was able to submit the Cabrillo file for the contest.

I know not everyone is interested in contesting, but it is one way to stay active on the air and improve our operating skills. I frequently listen on 10 meters and if it's open I make some contacts. (All hams have privilege's on 10 meters and it only takes a small antenna to get on the air.) It was amazing to hear all of the activity on 10 meters at this point in the cycle. If you want to get in on some of the action, try 10 meters before it fades. Public service season is over and winter is here, so what are you doing to keep active in ham radio?

This is the last issue of QSA5 for 2014 so let me wish all of you a happy holiday and New Year. See you at the Christmas dinner or a club meeting.

What's Happening in Radio

On the Air

ARRL Looks Back

Christmas Party

Board Minutes

Meeting Minutes



card or PayPal. You can also print the form and mail it in with a check.

This year we are trying something new. We have amended our bylaws to allow on-line voting. We are using a service rather than something I wrote. Most of you will receive an email with a link to a website where you vote. The system has safeguards to prevent you from voting more than once, drat.

The ballot will contain a list of names of people running to serve on the board, just as the old paper ballot did. This year we will have a new item for you to vote on. You will be asked to confirm the trustee of K6GWE. The trustee serves at the pleasure of the board of directors and is a voting member of the board but is not elected. If you confirm the trustee he will continue in the post. If the trustee receives fewer confirmation votes than 50% of the votes made, the board will choose a new trustee. Each trustee will come up for confirmation every two years. Next year we will ask for confirmation of the W6SG trustee.

For those of you who participated in public service events in 2014 we will have the thank you lunch and discussion on Saturday 17 January 2015 at the club house. We will provide the lunch and I am led to understand swag as well. Please save the date, more information will be forthcoming.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and 73
Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS

On The Air

Contest Calendar

ARRL EME Contest: 0000Z, Dec 6 to 2359Z, Dec 7
Ten-Meter RTTY Contest: 0000Z-2400Z, Dec 7
ARRL 160-Meter Contest: 2200Z, Dec 5 to 1600Z, Dec 7
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

2 Meter Critical Mass Radio Practice

Our next radio practice will be Saturday December 13, 2014, from 1000 hrs to 1200 hrs, again at Spreckels Lake in Golden Gate Park (36th Ave and Fulton).

That's the second Saturday of the month.

Peter McElmury AA6SF
2MeterCriticalMass.com

What's Happening in Radio?

Two Japanese Satellites to Carry Ham Radio Transponders to Deep Space

By the end of this month 2 more ham transponders should be in operation in deep space. They will operate on 145.940 to 145.960MHz (LSB) uplink and downlink will be 435.280 to 435.360 MHz (USB). A CW beacon will operate on 437.505. Shown here being assembled at Kyushu Institute of Technology.



2014 MARS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Planned Menu:

Salad, Soup, Turkey, Ham, Pot Roast, Dressing, Whipped Potatoes, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Deserts, Appetizers

PLEASE JOIN US!

\$25.00 per Person (Payable at the Door)
RSVP at rsvp@w6sg.net to reserve your space.
Arrive at 5:30 PM for visiting.
Dinner around 6:30 PM.

Door Prizes

Volunteers appreciated for decorating and / or clean-up.

Contact Rita:

rab9600@aol.com

December 17, 2014 17:30 (5:30 PM) - MARS Clubhouse, 27 Shell Rd, Mill Valley CA 94941





ARRL Looks Back

A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

After many years of political unrest in Myanmar that resulted in the banning of Amateur Radio, the country formerly known as Burma starting cracking the door open to hams in 1994. Following 3 years of negotiations with Myanmar officials and two small-scale DXpeditions to that country, Martti Laine, OH2BH, obtained permission for a large-scale DXpedition that would demonstrate the value of ham radio to the government. A multinational ham team operating as XZ1A made many thousands of contacts and even operated in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. The article, "DXing from the Golden Land," published in the March 1996 issue of QST, told the fascinating story.

For many years, interest in 10 GHz operation had been building, spurred on by the ARRL's 10 GHz contests. By the mid 1990s, many hams were heading to the mountaintops with their small dishes to operate at 10 GHz. Coastal hams with pleasure boats would often go offshore to operate from the rarer grids, but sometimes they would have to suspend operation, when seas became high enough to make dish-pointing from their bouncing boats almost impossible.

Gate 1 of the long-awaited vanity call sign program finally opened on May 31, 1996, after many delays -- including a total federal government shutdown at the beginning of that year, because Congress could not pass a budget. Gate 1 accepted applications from former holders of expired and unused call signs and from hams asking for the call signs once held by now-deceased relatives. Gate 2 opened on September 23, 1996, for Amateur Extra class licensees to apply.

An interesting juxtaposition of two "the old and the new" articles appeared in the September 1996 issue of QST. The first was an article explaining how the then-new Global Positioning System (GPS) works. The next article looked far into ham radio's past as it attempted to explain the inexplicable mysteries of the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch. The Wouff Hong and Rettysnitch were fictional tools that sprang from the imagination of "The Old Man" (Hiram Percy Maxim), to be used for punishing Amateur Radio operators who demonstrate poor operating practices.

As the "It Seems to Us" editorial related in the October 1996 issue of QST, "August was ushered in by a sudden announcement of rewritten FCC rules governing human exposure to RF fields, creating a mountain of uncertainty and concern in the Amateur Radio community." The "Happenings" column in that issue provided more details. An article in the January 1997 issue of QST further explained how the new rules would affect hams. -- Al Brogdon, W1AB

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Minutes for Board Meeting

Marin Amateur Radio Society
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 13, 2014

Board Members present: Curtis Ardourel, Dave Hodgson, Phil Dunlap, August Koehler, Doug Slusher, John Boyd, Cal Anber, Ed Essick, Rita Brenden, and Randy Jenkins. Visitor: Stanton Gleason.

The meeting was called to order by Curtis Ardourel at 19:35 hours.

The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the October 09, 2014 meeting were approved as published.

Randy reported on a \$300.00 check from The Dolphin Club, under correspondence.

Treasurer: Dave submitted reports for October. The report showed \$2,355.00 income and \$1,106.65 expenses; and total cash assets of \$52,366.38.

Committee reports:

Membership- We have 81 Members.

Public Service – All 2014 events completed. We plan to schedule a thank-you lunch in January.

Technical- The repeater systems are working.

Comm Truck- Rusting.

VE Liaison – Randy reported that there would be a session on Saturday, November 23.

Speakers – Edison Fong is scheduled for January.

Christmas Dinner - Still need volunteers, contact Rita. There was a motion to allocate \$400.00 for door prizes BQF/AKU/Pass.

There was a motion to allocate \$100.00 for a new Christmas Tree. Food was discussed.

Building Committee – Deferred to Old Business.

Old Business:

Ham Shack Procedures – Marc had worked on these.

The Sunday Nets - Curtis reported that the webpage had been fixed, and that rosters can be downloaded.

Parking Signs – No report.

Inventory of Equipment – Doug is half way through.

Building Inspection – The report was discussed. Safety issues need to be addressed ASAP. Doug is getting estimates on plumbing, and roofing issues. Randy will cap open electrical boxes, and replace a ballast.

Antenna Analyzer – Doug has ordered it.

New Business:

Nominating Committee – Doug reported that there was a candidate for every vacancy.

Hi Roberts Award – Get proposals to Curtis

Ham-of-the-Year – Past winners need to make suggestions.

Recruitment of New Members – was discussed.

Public Service Lunch – Planned for January. Hats will be ordered. Club logo magnetic signs were discussed.

John asked if the new logo should be trademarked. John will get us costs and procedures to consider.

John asked if we need a “DBA” listing for The Marin Amateur Society. We are incorporated as The Marin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

John to research and report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:05 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Secretary, Marin Amateur Radio Society

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the Secretary's files as maintained at the Corporate Office*-

General Membership Meeting

Friday, October 10, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 19:32 hrs by President Curtis Ardourel.

A round of introductions was the first order of business. Eleven members or guests were present.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

The minutes of the September 11, 2014 general membership meeting were approved.

President Ardourel reported on the actions at the September Board of Director's Meeting. The Board adopted a new logo for the club, and agreed to purchase an antenna analyzer for club use.

There were three reports under “Fun with Amateur Radio”.

The following new members were announced: Jamie Taylor, KK6OLF.
Secretary Jenkins reported on communications were bills, a notice from the Marin Elections Department, and junk.
Treasurer Dave Hodgson was not present and submitted no written report.
Membership: 79. Curtis reminded us that in the 1970's we had nearly 200.
Public Service: Peak Hike on Saturday, 10/11.

The Technical Committee: Doug is still working on the Tam West repeater. The duplexers need need to be re-tuned. He is planning a trip to the repeater sites before the rains start.

Comm Truck: No change.

VE Liaison: Randy reported on the September 28 VE session The remaining date is November 23.

Education: Nothing scheduled.

Picnic: Set for Saturday, October 18, 11:30 AM at Piper Park in San Anselmo. The club will supply burgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, beverages, and charcoal. Members should bring a salad or desert to share.

Old business: None

New Business: There was a mention from one of the visiting neighbors about using the clubhouse for a community meeting.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 20:29 hrs.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

John Boyd made a presentation on digital communications.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF
Secretary

Marin Amateur Radio Society W6SG.NET, membership@w6sg.net General Membership Meeting is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse at 27 Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM. Come a little early for pizza or whatever. From highway 101, head west toward Mill Valley on E. Blithedale. Turn right at the first stop light. Stay right at next stop sign, then turn left at next corner, Shell Road. We are in a two story building, second from the corner on the left directly under the power lines.

Business/Board Meeting meets at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley on the second Thursday at 7:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend.

Sunday morning informal meeting (aka bible class) meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting around 8am and runs to about 11am. Sometimes we even talk about radio.

The Sunday Emergency nets. The K6GWE emergency VHF net check-in is at 10:15 am on 147.700 (-pl 203.5). This is a directed net and the net control station may operate at the club house or at a member location. Members on the net check-in list that do not check in for three consecutive weeks are removed from the list until they reestablish check-in. Any member can sign up to act as the net control station. See the club website for sign-up instructions. The W6SG emergency HF net check-in is at 9 am on 3.915 Mh.

Marin Amateur Radio Society Officers and Board Members:

President

Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS 510-595-3494

Vice President

John Boyd KE6ORI 924-04419

Secretary

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089

Treasure:

Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864

Board Members

Cal Anber N6TIA 209-275-5252
 Rita Brenden KG6WPN 707-557-5521
 Marc Bruvry KF6VNT 492-9292
 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318
 Ed Essick K6ELE 456-1715

Other Positions:

Education Chair

Randy Jenkins

VE Liaison

Randy Jenkins

Building Co-Managers

Curtis Ardourel
 Dave Hodgson

Trustee for W6SG

Augie Koehler K0CQL

Trustee for K6GWE

Doug Slusher KF6AKU

Sunday Emergency Nets

Mark Bruvry and other volunteers

DX Representative of ARRL

Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829

Public Service Event Coordinator

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089

Membership

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ARRL San Francisco Section Manager

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WEBMASTER

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